

joint oversight hearing on the problem of youth gang activity in Indian country.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Friday, September 12, at 9 a.m. for a hearing on regulatory reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Immigration, of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, September 12, 1997, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing in room 226, Senate Dirksen Building, on: "Religious Workers."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REPEAL OF THE TOBACCO TAX CREDIT

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I supported the amendment offered this week by my colleagues, Senators DURBIN and COLLINS, to eliminate the tax credit for tobacco companies contained in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

I am amazed at the inventiveness of the process that resulted in this little known provision becoming law. The tax credit was not included in either the balanced budget or taxpayer relief bills that were first considered in the House and Senate. It was not included in the final, conference version of the 1,056-page Balanced Budget Act that the Senate approved on July 31. Instead, it was added to the Balanced Budget Act by means of an amendment quietly slipped into the final, conference version of the 809-page Taxpayer Relief Act, that the Senate passed just hours later on the same day.

This \$50 billion giveaway was never discussed or reviewed in an open, public forum, but was added at the eleventh hour, in a conference meeting behind closed doors. This is not the way the Congress should conduct the people's business.

Not only did this unnecessary and undeserved multi-billion-dollar tax credit bypass the normal and appropriate procedures of both Houses of Congress, it also ignored the good intentions of both the Senate and House to provide health care to our Nation's children. This tax break would give the tobacco industry a share of the \$50 bil-

lion raised from increased tobacco excise taxes, instead of protecting those funds to fund new children's health care initiatives. This tax break would benefit the tobacco industry by short-changing an important and widely supported public health initiative.

The overwhelming vote to repeal this unwarranted tax credit demonstrates clearly that the majority in the Senate did not intend to give a \$50 billion tax break to tobacco companies, instead of providing funds to meet the health care needs of approximately 10 million uninsured children in our country. Congress intended to, and did, gradually raise the tax on tobacco products by 15 cents, to provide much-needed funds for health insurance for uninsured children.

I am very concerned that the tobacco tax credit provision that was inserted into the Balanced Budget Act was an attempt by some to begin drafting tobacco liability settlement legislation before Congress has had an opportunity to carefully review the proposed settlement. The provision the Senate voted to repeal would have credited a portion of the increased tobacco excise taxes toward liability payments the tobacco companies could be required to make under legislation implementing the settlement. Clearly, this is inappropriate since Congress is still conducting a thorough examination of the settlement and has not reached a consensus on this matter.

While Congress continues to examine the multibillion-dollar litigation settlement between the tobacco industry and several States, we need to remain mindful that the most important aspect of these discussions is public health, particularly the welfare of our children. By approving the Durbin-Collins amendment and repealing the tax break to tobacco companies, Congress sent a clear message to the American public that their health and well-being is the priority in the complex tobacco settlement discussions. Supporting the Durbin amendment returns \$50 billion to the general Treasury while protecting the \$24 billion necessary for funding the children's health care initiative.

We need to carefully examine utilizing the funds returned to the treasury as financial support for various public health initiatives. Particularly, we need to discuss using these funds for developing initiatives which would provide our children with the appropriate guidance and information regarding the potential health dangers associated with tobacco products. It is imperative that we create educational campaigns which utilize a variety of tools including advertisement, special events, and public service campaigns. By disseminating the appropriate information to the public, specifically children, we could significantly raise awareness on the perils associated with smoking.

History demonstrates that anti-smoking campaigns, particularly on television and the radio can serve as

strong disincentives for smoking. During the late 1960's, the Federal Communications Commission mandated televised antismoking messages to counter the tobacco advertising which was filling the television airwaves. Anti-smoking advertisements and public service announcements caused a decline in the number of smokers in the country. However, in 1971, the FCC implemented a ban on radio and television advertisement. Since implementation of that ban, antismoking campaigns have also declined.

As chairman of the Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over many aspects of the tobacco settlement, I have already held one hearing on the settlement and fully intend on holding more hearings in the near future. Specifically, I intend to hold a hearing regarding the impact of television and radio messages in the antismoking campaign. I believe it is important to hold a hearing which examines the role of various media in the campaign to raise public awareness regarding the dangers associated with tobacco products, especially for the Nation's children.

Mr. President, it is important that we continue to give all aspects of the proposed tobacco settlement careful and coordinated consideration. At the same time, we need to remain mindful that a very important goal of any settlement ought to be the protection of the health and welfare of our children and the general public.●

RECOGNITION OF SEAN P. ALLERTON, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, TROOP 189

• Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Sean P. Allerton, a member of the Boy Scouts of America's Troop 189 in New Orleans, LA. In 1992, the 102d Congress amended the Constitution of the United States of America by ratifying the 27th amendment. In doing so, thousands of Government textbooks and educational tools throughout the country became outdated. American government students around the world were retrieving information in libraries, in classrooms and in textbooks that reported the Constitution as only having 26 amendments.

Sean Allerton recognized this lack of current information, and as his Eagle Scout project, decided to rectify the problem. He called upon numerous organizations and individuals in the New Orleans area to sponsor his goal of getting 6,600 copies of the new Constitution distributed to every American government and civics student in New Orleans. On August 21 of this year, he received a letter and a check from State District Court Judge Lloyd J. Medley, Jr., who believed in the importance of Sean's project and donated the financial backing to carry it forth.

On September 17, mayor of New Orleans Marc Morial will hold a press conference to congratulate and thank